

MONROE COUNTY ELLISON AREA PARK UPDATES:
Park Improvement Alternatives: Preliminary Outline
2008-10-28



ELLISON PARK:

FACILITIES

Construction of dog park.
(to be funded by Dog Park Trust Fund)

Structural improvements to existing buildings:
(see spreadsheet)
Upgrades to Pavilion Lodge are a priority.

Provide landing areas for paddlers on Irondequoit creek:
Identify potential areas along the creek for paddlers to disembark and
utilize Ellison park facilities. Strengthen connectivity between Ellison Park
and Ellison Wetlands.

Improve trails from south entrance
Possible enhancements of trail surfacing on high-use trails (Coyote Trail, etc.)

PROGRAMS

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

Stream bank stabilization strategies along Irondequoit Creek.

Restoration of stream bank areas damaged by frequent dog use.

Control of invasive species (possible utilization of community labor)

Establish sustainable trail practices for natural surface trails.

Survey and delineate park boundaries

ELLISON WETLANDS:

FACILITIES

Possible construction of new access, parking and car-top boat launch off of Empire Blvd.

Possible new parking and access on north side of Browncroft Blvd., at Landing Road.

Minor parking and access improvements on Old Browncroft Blvd.

Note: removal of the existing weir and installation of the Narrows Bridge is likely in 2009.

PROGRAMS

Emphasize ecological conservation and environmental education in this area.

Increased use of existing Monroe County Wetland Center.
Additional nature-oriented programs and events.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

Stream bank stabilization strategies along Irondequoit Creek.

Control of invasive species (possible utilization of community labor)

Sustainable trail practices for natural surface trails (Old rifle Range area).

Establish monitoring program to record trail use patterns and problem areas.

IRONDEQUOIT BAY PARK EAST:

FACILITIES

Possible new access, parking, entry signage and trailhead at 1559 Empire Blvd.
Requires asbestos abatement, demolition and removal of existing house, barn and out-buildings.

Provide additional park entry signage at Smith Road.
Provide surface repairs and improvements to park access road.

Provide signage with trail maps and interpretive information on natural and historical resources within the park.

Investigate the potential of additional parking spots along the park access road

Possible future addition of playing fields on plateau in old nursery area.
In partnership with Town of Penfield and/or local sports groups.
(1985 Master Plan recommendation)
Inventory and protect horticultural resources of the Old Lilac Nursery.

Possible future construction of new lodge building with multi-purpose functionality and enhanced waterfront recreation opportunities near the Quonset Hut.
Establish a linked circuit of waterfront destinations for paddlers around Irondequoit Bay.

PROGRAMS

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

Stream bank stabilization strategies along ravines draining to Irondequoit Bay.
Control of invasive species (possible utilization of community labor)

Sustainable trail practices for natural surface trails.

Establish monitoring program to record trail use patterns and problem areas.

Survey and delineate park boundaries

DEVIL'S COVE:

FACILITIES

Majority of public comments support the continuation of Devil's Cove as a boat-access only facility.

Unique condition on Irondequoit Bay

Land access, if eventually provided, can be walk-in trail access only from a small parking area off of Bay Road. Investigate potential access arrangements and/or property acquisitions.

PROGRAMS

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

Monitor water quality issues in the Cove.

Environmental enhancements to increase habitat value.

IRONDEQUOIT BAY PARK WEST:

FACILITIES

Improvements to entry signage and directional signage.

Improvement to surface conditions of existing roads.

Abatement of existing drainage and storm water management issues.

Possible new launch area for small boats at north end of park.

Establish a linked circuit of waterfront destinations for paddlers around Irondequoit Bay.

Possible utilization of old RR bed to provide trail corridor from Empire Blvd. into Irondequoit Bay Park West

Possible pedestrian/bike crossing of empire Blvd.

PROGRAMS

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

Streambank stabilization strategies along ravines draining to Irondequoit Bay.
Control of invasive species (possible utilization of community labor)

Sustainable trail practices for natural surface trails.

Establish monitoring program to record trail use patterns and problem areas.

Survey and delineate park boundaries

TRYON PARK:

FACILITIES

Identify additional access, parking and trailhead opportunities for Tryon Park.

Investigate possible additional land acquisitions to expand Tryon Park.

New signage system:

- entry signage

- regulatory signage

- interpretive signage

- wayfinding signage

PROGRAMS

Open natural surface trails in Tryon Park to off-road cycling.
(Requires amendment to Monroe County parks law.)

Establish educational programs and workshops for safe and responsible riding.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

Create a detailed inventory of existing trails in Tryon Park.

- Identify unsustainable or dangerous trails to be closed.

- Identify opportunities to establish new sustainable shared-use trails.

Application of Sustainable Trails guidelines to control erosion and environmental impacts on existing trails.

Design and Implement a Monitoring Plan to evaluate use and impacts to trail conditions and natural resources.

Establish a 36 month evaluation period to monitor impacts of policy changes.

Establish partnerships between Monroe County Parks Dept and community trail user groups for appropriate trail development and maintenance.

Survey and delineate park boundaries